

Currently Pending Claims

1. (currently amended) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having a first and a second printhead each with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

a frame; and

a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about ~~an~~ a first axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit only from said first printhead, and

a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation about ~~an~~ a second axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit only from said second printhead, wherein said first axis is different from said second axis,

wherein said first and second printheads are aligned along a first arcuate shape and said first and second axes of said first and second rollers, respectively, are aligned along a second arcuate shape similar to said first arcuate shape.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) A spittoon system according to claim 1, further comprising a drive motor coupled to rotate said rollers.

5. (previously presented) A spittoon system according to claim 4, further comprising a gear train which

couples the motor to the rollers.

6. (previously presented) A spittoon system according to claim 1, wherein the frame defines a waste ink reservoir located to receive waste ink from said rollers.

7. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 6, further comprising a liner of an absorbent material located within said waste ink reservoir.

8. (currently amended) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having first, second, third and fourth printheads each with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

a frame;

a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said first printhead;

a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a second axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said second printhead;

a third roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a third axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said third printhead; and

a fourth roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a fourth axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said fourth printhead,

wherein said first, second, third and fourth axes are different from one another and wherein said first, second, third and fourth printheads are aligned along a first arcuate shape and said first, second, third and fourth axes of said first, second, third and fourth rollers,

respectively, are aligned along a second arcuate shape similar to said first arcuate shape.

9. (currently amended) A spittoon system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a drive motor;

a gear train which couples the motor to said first roller, said second roller, said third roller, and said fourth roller;

wherein the frame defines a waste ink reservoir located to receive waste ink from said roller, said second roller, said third roller, and said fourth roller;

plural scrapers mounted to said frame to engage said rollers and remove waste ink therefrom; and

a liner of an absorbent material located within said waste ink reservoir.

10. (currently amended) A method of purging waste ink from a printhead of a printing mechanism having printheads for dispensing ink, comprising:

positioning at least some of said printheads over their own corresponding one of multiple rollers each aligned along a unique axis; and

purging waste ink from said at least some of said printheads onto their own corresponding one of multiple rollers

wherein said printheads are aligned along a first arcuate shape and said corresponding ones of multiple rollers, respectively, are aligned along a second arcuate shape similar to said first arcuate shape.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein

said printheads have nozzles which dispense said ink, and said positioning comprises positioning said rollers a substantially uniform distance from said nozzles.

12. Canceled.

13. Canceled.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~12~~ 10 wherein said first ~~contour~~ arcuate shape comprises a semicircular shape, and said second ~~contour~~ arcuate shape comprises a semicircular shape.

15. (currently amended) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having a first and a second printhead each with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

first means for receiving ink spit only from said first printhead;

second means for receiving ink spit only from said second printhead; and

means for rotating each of said first and second means for receiving ink about ~~an~~ a first axis and a second axis, respectfully, each oriented in said first direction,

wherein said first axis is different from said second axis, and

wherein said first and second printheads are aligned along a first arcuate shape and said first and second means for receiving ink, respectively, are aligned along a second arcuate shape similar to said first arcuate shape.

16. (canceled).

17. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising means for storing waste ink.

18. (previously presented) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising means for scraping waste ink from said first and second means for receiving ink.

19. (previously presented) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising:

means for scraping waste ink from said first and second means for receiving ink;

means for storing waste ink;

means for absorbing waste ink in said means for storing; and

wherein said means for rotating comprises a motor and means for transferring rotational motion from said motor to said first and second means for receiving ink.

20. (currently amended) A printing mechanism, comprising:

a chassis defining a printzone and a servicing zone;

a first printhead having a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction;

a second printhead having a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction;

a carriage which moves the printhead through the printzone and the servicing zone;

a frame located in the servicing zone;

a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an a first axis oriented in said first direction and

located to receive ink spit only from said first printhead;
and

a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation
about ~~an~~ a second axis oriented in said first direction and
located to receive ink spit only from said second,
printhead, said first axis different from said second axis,

wherein said first and second printheads are aligned
along a first arcuate shape and said first and second axes
of said first and second rollers, respectively, are aligned
along a second arcuate shape similar to said first arcuate
shape.